

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A heat exchanger, especially a charge-air cooler for motor vehicles, with flat tubes (9) having tube ends (9a), and with header boxes (1) which are connected, especially soldered, to tube bottoms (4), the tube bottoms (4) having orifices (8) with longitudinal sides (8a) and narrow sides (8b) for receiving the tube ends (9a), furthermore edge strips (5, 6) and transitional regions (12, 13) of channel-like design between the narrow sides (8b) and the edge strips (5, 6), and the tube ends (9a) being soldered in the orifices (8), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transitional regions (12, 13) have a reinforcement.
2. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reinforcement is designed as a material thickening.
3. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reinforcement is designed as a stiffening, especially as a bead.
4. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reinforcement is designed as a profile strip which at least partially fills the transitional region (12, 13) and which is soldered to the tube bottom (4).
5. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the profile strips (18, 19) are produced in one piece with the header box (17).
6. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the profile strips are designed as insert strips (11, 12).

7. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in ~~claim 4, 5 or 6, characterized in that~~ claim 4, wherein the orifices are designed as inwardly directed rim holes (8), and in that the profile strips (10, 11) have recesses (10a, 11a) which are adapted to the form of the narrow sides (8b) of the rim holes (8).

8. (Currently amended) The heat exchanger as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

9. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 5, wherein the orifices are designed as inwardly directed rim holes, and in that the profile strips have recesses which are adapted to the form of the narrow sides of the rim holes.

10. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 6, wherein the orifices are designed as inwardly directed rim holes, and in that the profile strips have recesses which are adapted to the form of the narrow sides of the rim holes.

11. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 2, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

12. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 3, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

13. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 4, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

14. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 5, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

15. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 6, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.

16. (New) The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 7, wherein the orifices are designed as outwardly directed rim holes.